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# 09/03/1985 - Football Season Opener

University Marketing and Communications

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# Panther Sports News

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LS-AS-FB-FB OPP

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Can the remarkable passing combo of QB Sean Payton (Naperville-Central) and WR Roy Banks (Detroit-King) continue its mastery? Will a more experienced defense show improvement? Can two straight strong recruiting classes provide much needed depth?

These and other questions will at least be partially answered when Eastern Illinois University's football Panthers open the 1985 season Saturday night (September 7) at Northeast Missouri. Kickoff is 7:30 for this non-conference game.

The Panthers, picked to win the initial Gateway Conference race on the basis of five straight league titles in the now defunct Mid-Continent, are also going for an eighth straight winning season.

Northeast Missouri has had two straight 4-7 seasons under third year coach Jack Ball although last year finished strong with all four wins coming in the last six games.

"The same feelings exist each year at this point of practice . . . we're anxious to play a game to see what we've learned and how much we've improved during the off-season," said head coach Al Molde.

### \* \* \* \* \* GAME NOTES \* \* \* \* \*

THE GAME: Eastern Illinois University (0-0) at Northeast Missouri (0-0), 7:30 CDT, Saturday, September 7, Stokes Stadium, Kirksville.

RADIO: All the action can be heard on 50,000 watt WLBH-FM Mattoon beginning with the Al Molde pregame show at 7:15 . . . Ken Wooddell calls play-by-play with Doug Bock providing the commentary.

SERIES STANDING: EIU leads, 8-5, and has won six of the last seven games including three straight.

LAST YEAR: QB Sean Payton threw for 326 yards and three TDs as the Panthers passing game set a then school record of 412 yards . . . Roy Banks caught nine for 130 and two 19 yard TDs . . . the 'D' limited NEMO to just 100 total yards, 19 rushing.

COACHES RECORDS: EIU's Al Molde, in his third season, is 0-0 this fall, 15-8 overall at EIU and 89-50-6 (63%) in his 15th year . . . he's had 11 winning seasons and four NCAA playoff teams . . . he's 3-2 vs. NEMO which includes a 1-2 record while at Central Missouri.

NEMO's Jack Ball, in his third year, is 8-14 overall and 0-2 vs. the Panthers.

NEMO FACTS: Senior QB Chris Hegg will direct the Bulldogs double tight pass oriented offense . . . taking over in the 4th game last year he finished with 1565 yards passing and 12 TDs . . . the 'Dogs averaged 20 points and 309 yards the last eight games . . . wide receiver John Busby, a first team all-MIAA choice and one of the NCAA II's top returning receivers, had 56 catches for 652 yards . . . RB Andre Gillespie rushed for 795 yards and added 20 pass catches for 158 . . . defensive experience is at linebacker with HM all-league senior Roydon Richards and junior Scott Griffith, who transferred from Waldorf (IA) College.

PAYTON'S PLACE: AP HM All-American QB Sean Payton (Naperville-Central) continues his assault on the remaining season and career passing records that he does not already hold . . . the most predictable career marks to fall are passing yardage and total offense . . . he has 4053 yards and is chasing Jeff Christensen's (1980-82) 6282 for passing, and has 3986 total offense to Christensen's 6185.

BANKS, TOO: AP HM All-American WR Roy Banks (Detroit-King) is chasing his own batch of records with the most likely to be eclipsed for career TD pass receptions . . . Banks has 18 with Scott McGhee (1977-80) on top at 27.

SEASON OPENERS: Besides going for an eighth straight winning season, the Panthers are pursuing an eighth straight season opening win . . . the last loss in an opener was 20-0 at Illinois State in 1977 . . . since then, in order, the Panthers have disposed of Central State, South Dakota three times, Illinois State twice and Grand Valley.

STILL YOUNG: Although the Panthers have half dozen starters returning on both offense and defense, they are still a young team . . . cornerbacks Brian Newby (Chicago-Simeon) and Ed Nailon (San Diego-San Diego City CC) are the only senior starters and there are only seven seniors in the top 44.

GATEWAY STANDINGS:	<u>GC W-L</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Overall W-L</u>	<u>Points</u>
Southern Illinois	0-0	-	1-0	63-0
Southwest Missouri	0-0	-	1-0	31-24
EASTERN ILLINOIS	0-0	-	0-0	-
Western Illinois	0-0	-	0-0	-
Northern Iowa	0-0	-	0-0	-
Illinois State	0-0	-	0-0	-

OPPONENTS THIS WEEK: Northeast Missouri hosts EASTERN ILLINOIS  
 Indiana State hosts St. Cloud State  
 Saginaw Valley hosts Indiana Central  
 Southern Illinois hosts Southwest Missouri\*  
 Kansas is open  
 Illinois State hosts Western Illinois\*  
 Northern Michigan hosts North Dakota State  
 Northern Iowa at Drake  
 Western Kentucky hosts Tennessee State

\* Gateway Games

MOLDE SAYS: "We did a lot of scrimmaging this fall in preseason practice because we had more people back who were familiar with the system . . . consequently we believe we have more depth than in the first couple years here . . . and we were able to spend more time refining our techniques . . . we're confident we're ready to play . . . with a first game it's important not to beat yourself so we'll stress eliminating mistakes such as careless penalties and not turning over the ball . . . if we can do that we should do alright."

#### TENTATIVE STARTERS

##### OFFENSE

SE - 1	Charlie Williams (6-1, 180, Jr.)	80 Willie Cain (6-0, 180, Jr.)
LT - 78	Chris Geile (6-5, 295, Jr.)	56 Barry Wolfe (6-2, 265, Sr.)
LG - 72	Mark Petersen (6-3, 245, So.)	66 Bob Benning (6-0, 235, Jr.)
C - 76	Sean O'Brien (6-1, 270, Fr.)	65 Mike Hurley (6-0, 235, Sr.)
RG - 69	Jim Miteff (6-0, 230, So.)	63 Dave Popp (6-6, 240, Fr.)
RT - 62	Steve Bonnes (6-3, 255, Jr.)	56 Barry Wolfe (6-2, 265, Sr.)
TE - 32	Shon McCray (6-2, 240, So.)	82 Darrell Crowe (6-2, 225, Jr.)
QB - 18	Sean Payton (6-1, 200, Jr.)	10 John Rafferty (6-2, 190, Jr.)
RB - 20	DuWayne Pitts (5-9, 175, So.)	7 James Marable (5-9, 175, Fr.)
SB - 21	Calvin Pierce (6-1, 200, Jr.)	15 Scott Sanderson (6-2, 205, Jr.)
FL - 2	Roy Banks (6-0, 190, Jr.)	24 Kevin Hunter (5-9, 165, So.)

##### DEFENSE

LE - 85	Tom Moskal (6-2, 250, Sr.)	70 Derold Walls (6-4, 230, Sr.)
NG - 93	Carl Parker (5-11, 225, So.)	92 Aaron Thomas (5-11, 245, Jr.)
RT - 95	Dave Lewandowski (5-4, 260, So.)	96 Scott Pilkerton (6-0, 220, Jr.)
OLB - 19	Jon Moore (6-0, 210, So.)	58 Chris Nelson (6-1, 195, So.)
ILB - 44	Rob DeVita (6-1, 210, Jr.)	59 Bill Cochran (6-1, 240, So.)
ILB - 40	Derick Wilhelms (6-2, 220, So.)	53 Dan Polewski (6-1, 230, Jr.)
OLB - 99	Rod Mathis (6-3, 215, Jr.)	98 Mel Black (6-2, 235, Sr.)
LC - 48	Ed Nailon (5-11, 190, Sr.)	9 Greg Rhea (5-8, 170, Jr.)
RC - 14	Brian Newby (6-1, 185, Sr.)	23 Barry Gravenhorst (5-9, 175, So.)
SS - 42	Bob Bronaugh (5-10, 190, Jr.)	12 Scott Johnson (6-4, 185, Fr.)
FS - 22	Darius Shavers (5-8, 160, Jr.)	12 Scott Johnson (6-4, 185, Fr.)

##### SPECIALISTS

Punter - 8 Evan Arapostathis (5-9, 165, Sr.), 46 Brian Necessary (6-0, 200, So.)  
 Placekicker - 8 Evan Arapostathis, 3 Alswinn Kieboom (5-10, 175, Fr.)  
 Kickoffs - 8 Evan Arapostathis, 3 Alswinn Kieboom  
 Holder - 15 Scott Sanderson (6-2, 205, Jr.)  
 Long Snapper - 56 Barry Wolfe (6-2, 265, Sr.)  
 Punt Returns - 2 Roy Banks (6-0, 180, Jr.), 9 Greg Rhea (5-8, 170, Jr.)